

Docket No.: C1151-7000

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: McCollum et al.
Serial No: 09/589,647
Confirmation No: 8728
Filed: June 7, 2000
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR OBTAINING HEALTH-RELATED RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS USING AN ONLINE LOCATION
Examiner: Natalie Pass
Art Unit: 3626

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Decision on Appeal including grounds for rejection under 37 C.F.R. § 41.50(b) mailed February 27, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows. Changes to the claims are shown by strike through (for deleted matter) and underlining (for added matter).

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of obtaining a patient record containing information concerning an identified patient ~~or document~~ using an online location on an electronic medium, comprising:

requesting an order, by a requestor, for the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from the online location;

providing to the requestor a cover letter having an identifier, the identifier having order information;

providing to the requestor, by the identified patient, a patient authorization letter authorizing release of the patient record concerning the identified patient;

sending, by the requestor, the cover letter along with ~~a~~ the patient authorization letter to a processing center, for completing the order;

requesting, by the processing center, to a shipping location to ship the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ to a destination location; and

obtaining, by the requestor, the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from the destination location.

2. (Currently amended) A system for obtaining a patient record containing information concerning an identified patient ~~or document~~ using an online location on an electronic medium, comprising:

means for requesting, by a requestor, an order for the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from the online location;

means for providing the requestor a cover letter having an identifier for identifying the order;

providing to the requestor, by the identified patient, a patient authorization letter authorizing release of the patient record concerning the identified patient;

means for sending, by the requestor, the cover letter along with a the patient authorization letter to a processing center;

means for requesting the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from a shipping location;

means for receiving, by a destination location, the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from the shipping location; and

means for obtaining the patient record concerning the identified patient ~~or document~~ from the destination location.

3. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the online location comprises a web site.

4. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the requestor comprises an insurance company.

5. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising inputting patient information in a graphical user interface window before requesting the order.

6. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the patient information includes at least one of a claim number, first name, last name, social security number, and date of birth.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the identifier comprises a bar code.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein sending the cover letter comprises faxing the cover letter to the processing center.

9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 8 further comprising automatically reading and identifying, by the processing center, the identifier on the cover letter.

10. (Previously presented) The system according claim 2, wherein the requestor comprises an insurance company.

11. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein the online location comprises a web site.

12. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein the means for requesting the order comprises inputting patient information in a graphical user interface window.

13. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein the identifier comprises a bar code.

14. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein sending the cover letter comprises faxing the cover letter to the processing center.

15. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 2, wherein sending the cover letter comprises mailing the cover letter to the processing center.

16. (Currently amended) A method of ordering, by a requestor, a patient record containing information concerning an identified patient or document using an online location, comprising:

requesting an order for the patient record concerning the identified patient or document from the online location;

providing to the requestor a cover letter having an identifier, the identifier having order information;

providing to the requestor, by the identified patient, a patient authorization letter authorizing release of the patient record concerning the identified patient; and

sending the cover letter along with ~~a~~ the patient authorization letter to a processing center associated with the online location for completing the order.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the requestor comprises an insurance company.

18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16 further comprising inputting patient information in a graphical user interface window before requesting the order.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the identifier comprises a bar code.

20. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein sending the cover letter comprises faxing the cover letter to the processing center.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said cover letter is a paper letter.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein said patient authorization letter is a paper letter.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 2, wherein said cover letter is a paper letter.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein said patient authorization letter is a paper letter.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein said cover letter is a paper letter.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 25, wherein said patient authorization letter is a paper letter.